



SIXTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
Health of Stafford

J. T. MACNAB

M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.) D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1933

STAFFORD :
ALLISON & BOWEN, LTD., 19, GREENGATE STREET





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STAFF

OF THE

Public Health Department

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
Medical Superintendent Infectious Diseases Hospital, and
Medical Officer Infant Welfare Centre.

*J. T. MACNAB, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), D.P.H.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR,
Under Diseases of Animals Acts.
W. G. THOMSON, M.R.C.V.S.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,
Lodging-house Inspector, Inspector under the Canal Boats
Act, and Inspector under the Housing Consolidated Regula-
tions, 1925 and 1932.

*JAMES H. DRURY, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
and Certificated Meat Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.
*I. O. WILLIAMS, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
and Certificated Meat Inspector.

PUPIL IN SANITARY INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT.
S. A. GREGORY.

HEALTH VISITORS,
and Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.
*MISS C. E. SUFFIELD, H.V. & S.I. Certs. R.S.I.,
Cert. Cent. Midwives' Board.

*MISS E. E. BRIGGS, S.R.N., H.V. & M. & C.W. Certs. R.S.I.,
Cert. Cent. Midwives' Board.

MATRON OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.
MISS N. ROBERTS.

CLERK.
R. FOWELL.

*Salaries contributed to under Public Health Acts or by
Exchequer Grants. All are whole-time Officers, except the
Veterinary Inspector and that the Health Visitors devote a
portion of their time to work under the Staffordshire, Wolver-
hampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.



5, MARTIN STREET,
STAFFORD.
29th May, 1934.

**To the Chairman and Members of
the Public Health Committee.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Sixtieth Annual Report on the Health of Stafford.

It is drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1346, dated 2nd October, 1933.

The health of the town continues to be satisfactory, particularly so with regard to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, from which we have remained comparatively free.

During the early months of the year there was a widespread epidemic of Influenza, but here, again, our experience was relatively favourable.

The housing situation is bound to improve as a result of the increase in private building, but public assistance is still needed to replace unfit houses and to relieve overcrowding, many of the families concerned being unable to pay increased rents.

To Mr. Drury and Miss Suffield I am indebted for their assistance in preparing this report, and to all the staff of the Health Department for their willing co-operation throughout the year.

I would also thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindness and continued support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MACNAB.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	3,420 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population					
(1933)	...	...	...	...	29,440
Density of population or number of persons per					
acre (1933)	...	...	...	...	8.6
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1933) according					
to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	6,970
Number of private families (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	6,949
Rateable value (31st March, 1933)	...	...	...	...	£169,868
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£678

Social Conditions.

Mr. H. E. Chater, Manager of the Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied me with the following information :—

“ The chief industries and occupations in the town of Stafford are :—

	Males.	Females.
(a) Manufacture of ladies' boots and shoes—approximate numbers employed	1,350	1,500
(b) Electrical Engineering—approximate numbers employed	1,800	480
(c) Internal Combustion Engine Manufacture—approximate numbers employed	500	60
(d) Locomotive Engineering and General Engineering—approximate numbers employed	760	80
(e) Emery wheel manufacture—approximate numbers employed	250	60
(f) Wood Heel Manufacture—approximate numbers employed	120	200
(g) Distributive Trades—approximate numbers employed	870	500
(h) Building Trade—approximate numbers employed	700	30
(i) Local Government Service—approximate numbers employed (estimate only)	350	60

“ The total insurable population (Unemployment Insurance Acts) is approximately 12,000.

“During the twelve months ended December 31st, 1933, the employment position in the area continued to show improvement—the figures of workpeople registered as unemployed dropping from 1,432 at the end of 1932 to 965 on the corresponding date in 1933. The improvement appears to have been an all-round one and not confined to any one industry, but the Building Trade, Boot and Shoe Trade, Electrical Engineering and Emery Wheel Manufacture all appear to show an improved position for the year.”

No definite evidence is available to show that any **number** of men have shown physical deterioration as the result of prolonged unemployment, but I have heard of **one** case where the workman, a single man in lodgings, who has been unemployed for a lengthy period and who is in receipt of transitional payments, appears to be considerably less robust than was the case a year or two ago—such position appearing to have arisen from the fact that he is having a very hard struggle to manage on the amount granted to him.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

POPULATION.—It is difficult to accept the Registrar-General's estimate of 29,440 for 1933 as correct, involving as it does a reduction of 150 over the figure for 1932. There does not appear to have been any exodus of industry from the town, and the number of **inhabited** houses has increased by some 270 since the Census so that it now exceeds the number of private families recorded at that date. Private enterprise is still actively building, and the demand for houses, if not as great as ever, is still very real.

LIVE	Total	M.	F.
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BIRTHS : Legitimate	369	198	171
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383	Illegitimate	14	6	8	Birth Rate 13.0.
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The rate for the 132 Smaller Towns of England and Wales, of which Stafford is one, is 14.5. Last year Stafford's birth rate was 13.8 with 408 births.

STILL	Total	M.	F.
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BIRTHS : Legitimate	23	11	12
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23	Illegitimate	0	0	0	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 57.
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Total	M.	F.
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DEATHS :	342	189	153	Recorded Death Rate, 11.6.
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The death rate is affected by the age and sex of the population concerned, being higher among an elderly population and also, to some extent, among males as compared with females of similar age.

The Registrar-General supplies a " factor for correction " to each district based on the age and sex of its population as shown at the last Census. When the recorded death rate of a town is multiplied by this factor the corrected death rate is obtained. This is truly comparable with the death rate of any town similarly treated.

The factor for correction for Stafford is 0.991, and the corrected **Death Rate is 11.5**, compared with 11.0 for the 132 Smaller Towns and 11.0 for Stafford last year.

The causes of death are shown below :—

Causes of death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza	8	7	15
Encephalitis lethargica	2	—	2
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	16	3	19
Other tuberculous diseases	1	1	2
Syphilis	2	1	3
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	2	—	2
Cancer, malignant disease	23	19	42
Diabetes	—	3	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	5	11	16
Heart disease	30	33	63
Aneurysm	1	—	1
Other circulatory diseases	12	6	18
Bronchitis	3	13	16
Pneumonia (all forms)	17	7	24
Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
Peptic ulcer	6	1	7
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	1	1
Appendicitis	3	1	4
Cirrhosis of liver	2	1	3
Other diseases of liver, etc.....	2	1	3
Other digestive diseases	2	5	7
Acute and chronic nephritis	5	5	10
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	9	7	16
Senility	7	15	22
Suicide	2	—	2
Other violence	9	2	11
Other defined diseases	18	8	26
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1	1
Total deaths	189	153	342

As compared with last year, the chief increases in deaths were due to the prevalence of Influenza, although Stafford's experience was less unfavourable than that of the majority of areas.

It may be noted that the deaths attributed to Old Age rose to 22 compared with 10 last year. On the other hand the deaths from Tuberculosis fell from 35 to 21.

Of the 42 Cancer deaths 15 were persons over 70 years of age; the males included 16 in whom the disease involved the digestive system, while one half of the female deaths were due to disease of the sex organs.

128, or well over one-third, of the deaths took place at ages of 70 years and over.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—Only two deaths were due to zymotic diseases, giving a rate of 0.07, as compared with 0.22, the average for the preceding ten years.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	...	...	...	1
Total Zymotic Deaths, 2.				

Death rates from the main causes are:—

Heart disease (63 cases)	...	...	...	2.12
Cancer (42 cases)	...	...	...	1.41
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc. (42 cases)	...	...	...	1.41
Old Age (22 cases)	...	...	...	0.74
Tuberculosis (all forms) (21 cases)	...	...	...	0.71
Cerebral hæmorrhage (16 cases)	...	...	...	0.54
Congenital debility, etc. (16 cases)	...	...	...	0.54
Influenza (15 cases)	...	...	...	0.50
				7.97
All other causes (105 cases)	...	...	...	3.53
				11.50
Total	...	...	...

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY } { England and Wales, 118 County Boroughs and Great Towns,
in the year, 1933. } and 132 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales and for London and Stafford have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1933, but those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1932.

	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.			PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes.	Typhoid & Paratyph'd fevers.	Small-pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Certified by Coroner after P.M.	No Inquest Causes of Death.
England and Wales	14.4	0.62	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.57	0.54	7.1	64	90.9	6.3	1.9	0.9
London	13.2	0.45	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.08	0.51	0.58	11.6	59	88.3	6.3	5.4	0.0
118 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.4	0.67	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.55	0.49	9.4	67	91.0	6.0	2.5	0.5
132 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931).....	14.5	0.63	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.53	0.44	4.9	56	91.7	5.8	1.5	1.0
STAFFORD	13.0	0.78	11.5	—	—	—	—	0.03	—	0.50	0.44	2.6	60	89.2	6.1	3.8	0.9

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows : { (per 1,000 Live Births ... Puerperal Sepsis. Others. Total.
" " Total Births 1.71 2.52 4.23
" " 1.79 2.63 4.42

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth :—There were no deaths from these causes during the year.

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—There were 23 deaths (14 males and 9 females), none of which were in illegitimate children.

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	60
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	62
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—	—	—

The following table gives the infant mortality for 1933, and for the previous ten years :—

Year	Births	Under one month.		Under one year.	
		Deaths	Rate per 1000 births	Deaths	Rate per 1000 births
1923	491	16	33	27	55
1924	449	17	38	33	73
1925	486	10	21	25	51
1926	481	16	33	29	60
1927	455	12	26	22	48
1928	434	15	35	26	60
1929	446	13	29	28	63
1930	411	9	22	22	53
1931	348	12	34	22	63
1932	408	18	44	27	66
Average for 10 yrs.	440.9	13.8	31.3	26.1	59.2
1933	383	16	42	23	60

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningitis (not tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Injury at birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformation	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	4
Premature birth	5	1	2	1	6	1	1	—	—	10
TOTAL	9	2	3	2	16	2	1	1	3	23

The number of infant deaths during the child welfare period continues to be low, but the deaths due to causes operating at or before birth show no decline, no less than ten of these being due to premature birth.

STILL-BIRTHS. — Twenty-four still-births took place, twenty-three being registered as belonging to the district, giving a rate of 57 per 1,000 births (including still-born). Eleven were males and twelve females. The following particulars were ascertained :—

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	6
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	3
Instrumental delivery	...	...	...	...	2
Malpresentation	...	...	...	...	2
Maternal ill-health	...	...	...	...	1
No cause ascertained	...	...	...	...	8

Fourteen of the mothers had been attended by their own doctors during pregnancy. Two of these had attended the Ante-natal Centre.

DEATHS OF CHILDREN FROM 1 TO 5 YEARS.—There were ten deaths at these ages. Three were due to pneumonia, and the others to tuberculous meningitis, other forms of meningitis, influenza, accident, and septicæmia.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Home Nursing.

The general nursing of the district is provided by the Stafford District Nurses' Society, Tipping Street. The Society also provides nursing for cases of Measles and other ailments of the young, when requested by the Medical Officer of Health to do so, and receives an annual grant from the Council for this. During the year 11 cases were nursed under this arrangement, and 226 visits were made to them.

Midwives.

The Council does not employ or subsidise practising midwives. Six midwives practised in the Borough during 1933, all of whom were certificated.

Laboratory Facilities.

The examination or analysis of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk, and foodstuffs is carried out by the County Bacteriologist and the County Analyst at the County Laboratories, Martin Street, Stafford.

Adoptive Acts, etc., in Force in the District.

LOCAL ACTS.

Stafford Corporation Acts of 1876, 1880, and 1896.

ADOPTIVE ACTS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.	Date of Adoption.
Local Government Act, 1858	1872
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ...	1891
Baths and Wash-houses Acts	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ...	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II., III. (except Sections 39 to 42 inclusive), IV., V., VI. and X.	1923
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. (except Section 34), III., IV., and V.	1926

BYE-LAWS.

	Date of Adoption or Revision.
Water Closets (made under Stafford Corporation Act, 1896)	1897
Offensive Trades	1923
Slaughterhouses	1927
Common Lodging Houses	1927
Prevention of Nuisances	1928
New Streets and Buildings and the Drainage of Existing Buildings	1930

It will be noted that all the bye-laws have been revised and brought up-to-date within the past few years.

Hospitals.

STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY, FOREGATE STREET.—General medical and surgical wards. This hospital admits children as well as adults. Ear, nose, and throat cases are treated as well as certain cases of difficult labour, puerperal fever and pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, etc. The only cases excluded are “infectious diseases or cases of fever including typhoid and phthisis.” The hospital has an up-to-date operating theatre and the following special departments :— X-ray, dental, ear, nose and throat, and massage.

MARSTON ROAD INSTITUTION.—This was the Poor Law Infirmary, and is used for the chronic sick.

COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL, GAOL SQUARE.—This has accommodation for 950 patients, and is under the control of the County Mental Hospitals Board.

COTON HILL MENTAL HOSPITAL, WESTON ROAD.—For private patients, and has accommodation for 150.

BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL, 'TITHE BARN ROAD.—Provided jointly by the Stafford Borough Council and the Stafford Rural District Council for the treatment of Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric fever.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL, MOXLEY.—The Corporation are members of the South Staffordshire Joint Small Pox Hospital Board, and are thus part proprietors of the Small Pox Hospital at Moxley, to which any cases of the disease are admitted.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Local cases are treated in the Institutions provided by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS.—Nil.

ORTHOPÆDIC.—Cases requiring operative treatment are admitted to the hospitals at Hartshill and Standon Hall.

Institution for Homeless Children.

The Cottage Homes in Stone Road have accommodation for 60 children.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is maintained by the Council and is available for the town and surrounding district. It is housed in a local garage, and is used for general ambulance work, also for infectious cases (subject to disinfection). Applications should be made to the Police, Stafford (Tel. No. 1. Stafford).

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—At the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, provided by the Borough Council, and staffed by the Public Health Department, with assistance from the Guild of Social Welfare. This centre is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CENTRE.—At the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—For minor ailments, dental, ear, nose and throat, and ophthalmic. In Mill Bank. Provided by the County Education Committee.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.—In premises situated in Sandon Road. Provided by the Stafford Cripples' Centre. The arrangements under which Child Welfare cases are able to benefit from this are mentioned under Maternity and Child Welfare.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CLINIC.—Artificial light treatment is available at the General Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—In Mill Bank, provided by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—The County Council have now opened a clinic at the Staffordshire Infirmary. The other nearest clinics are those provided by the Stafford County Council at Wolverhampton and Stoke-on-Trent. Particulars can be obtained from the M.O.H., at 5, Martin Street.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

This continues to be entirely satisfactory, both as to quality and quantity.

Reports of the water are obtained regularly from the County Analyst and the County Bacteriologist, and have always been entirely satisfactory. The following are the latest reports :—

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.				Parts per 100,000
Total solid matter dried at 212°F.	...	...	...	24.0
Free and saline ammonia	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.33
Chlorine	...	...	...	2.15
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	...	0.006
Appearance	...	...	...	Clear
Injurious metallic contamination	...	...	...	None
Hardness before boiling	...	...	...	10.28
Hardness, after boiling	...	...	...	5.90
Temporary hardness	...	...	...	4.38

This water maintains its excellent quality for drinking.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.				Organisms per c.c.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours @ 37°C.	...	...	...	6
On nutrient gelatine after 72 hours incubation @ 22°C.	...	...	...	10
No typical B. coli present in 100 c.c. of this sample after 72 hours incubation @ 37°C.				

There is no evidence of recent sewage pollution and, as judged by this sample, the high standard of this water supply is maintained.

There are still four houses at Doxey which obtain their water supply from wells.

Samples of water from the wells to two cottages at Silkmore were obtained and examined as to their fitness for drinking. They were found to be so polluted as to be unfit for use, and proceedings have been commenced to have town water laid on.

Rivers and Streams.

The water courses in the Borough have been kept under observation, and it has been found that the improvement with regard to pollution by oily substances has been maintained. A certain amount of pollution is unavoidable owing to the surface washings from streets, yards, and other places finding their way into the streams. The Inspectors deal with any cases of foul water discharging into surface drains which they discover during the course of their inspections.

As in previous years analyses of water from the Sowe and Penk were made for the Standing Committee on Rivers Pollution in July and September.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year a number of extensions and improvements to both the sewage and surface water sewers have been carried out. A watercourse adjoining the Corporation Tillington housing estate has been piped in and continued across the allotment gardens and down the back of Nursery Lane for a distance of 562 yards. The surface water sewer in Booth Lane has been improved and relaid for a distance of 113 yards. In the Tixall Road the sewage sewer has been extended for a distance of 202 yards and the surface water sewer for 390 yards to receive the drainage of a number of new houses. Also there have been extensions of the sewage sewers in St. John's Road and Doxey for distances of 246 yards and 167 yards respectively to receive the drainage of new houses. On the Corporation Tillington housing estate 256 yards of new sewage sewers and 190 yards of surface water sewers have been laid.

Closet Accommodation.

There are approximately 6,101 water closets with flushing cisterns and 1,601 waste water closets in the Borough. The number of pail and midden privies remains the same, about 21 in outlying houses, of which two are of the vault type, the remainder being pail closets.

The waste water closets still continue to give a great deal of trouble. Out of 1,380 stoppages 977 were in waste water closets. This is an increase of 7 over last year. When stoppages are found to be due to unsuitable articles choking the drain, notices are sent to the householders concerned calling on them to exercise more care so as to prevent a repetition of the trouble.

During the year 46 waste water closets were converted into pedestal W.C.s with flushing cisterns, and two vault privies and one pail privy have been converted into W.C.s with flushing cisterns.

Scavenging.

During the year 117 notices have been served to provide sufficient galvanised iron receptacles for household refuse, of this number only two were to replace wooden tubs.

Since the commencement of the scheme for the abolition of the uncovered wooden receptacles thirteen years ago 3,522 galvanised bins have been purchased from the Corporation, and in addition a considerable number have been obtained privately. The notices which are now being served are for the replacement of worn out galvanised receptacles.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Mr. J. H. Drury, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, presents the following table summarising the routine work of the year.

The scope and extent of this work continue to increase, owing not only to the advance of the town but also to the steady increase in Public Health legislation. Its importance and the part it plays in improving the health of the town have been pointed out in recent annual reports.

As in previous reports, the great majority of nuisances are remedied as the result of informal notices, which is very satisfactory.

	No. of		Notices.		Notices complied with.	
	Inspections	Defects	Informal 1	Statutory 2	1	2
Visits to dwelling-houses	2981	...	...	...	...	...
Houses requiring cleansing	3	1	1	...	1	...
Structural defects ...	89	94	42	4	35	4
Housing of Working Classes Act	227	...	36	3	13	3
Lodging-houses	3	...	...	...	...	...
Factories & Work-shops	113	32	32	...	28	...
Dairies & Milkshops	153	6	6	...	6	...
Cowsheds	64	5	5	...	5	...
Bakehouses	64	10	10	...	10	...
Slaughterhouses	1317	8	8	...	8	...
Fried Fish Shops ...	66	3	3	...	3	...
Canal Boats .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits & want of receptacles for refuse.	258	142	117	18	94	16
Deposits of refuse & manure	42	5	5	...	5	...
Water Closets	151	119	73	8	62	6
House drainage defects	105	65	46	2	40	2
Water supply	2	1	1	...	1	...
Animals improperly kept	13	4	4	1	3	1
Offensive Trades other than Fried Fish Shops	11	...	...	...	...	...
Defective yard pavements .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	24	11	11	...	10	...
Overcrowding .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Closet stoppages cleared .....	...	1380	...	...	...	...
	5686	1886	400	36	324	32

Unwholesome food :—

Number of surrenders ...	...	...	...	...	518
Number of seizures ...	...	...	...	...	0
Condemned by Magistrate ...	...	...	...	...	0
Prosecutions for exposing for sale ...	...	...	...	...	0
Convictions for exposing for sale ...	...	...	...	...	0

Precautions against Infectious Disease :—

Lots of infected bedding disinfected or destroyed	83
Houses disinfected after infectious disease ...	101

Smoke Abatement.

During the year 55 fixed smoke observations have been made of the smoke emitted from the various chimney stacks within the Borough in addition to general observations. Where necessary, letters have been sent or verbal cautions given.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Milk Producers	18
Retail Purveyors of Milk in the Borough ...	96
Retail Purveyors of Milk whose premises are outside the Borough	41
Common Lodging Houses	3
Offensive Trades	32
Slaughterhouses	13
Butchers' Shops	38

Many of the producers of milk are also enumerated amongst the retailers.

There are no Bye-laws in force in the Borough relating to houses let in lodgings or for tents, vans, sheds, etc., and there is no need for regulations in regard to underground sleeping rooms.

Offensive Trades.

There are now 32 Offensive Trades on the Register, of which 27 are fried fish shops, fish frying having been declared an Offensive Trade on June 18th, 1923, and 77 visits have been made to these premises. The remainder consists of 1 fell-monger, 2 rag and bone merchants, and 2 gut scrapers. The additional rag and bone merchant is caused by the existing business having been divided and under separate control.

The fish frying businesses have been carried on in a satisfactory manner, and no complaints have been received by the Department with regard to them.

Factory and Workshop Act.

INSPECTIONS.—64 inspections of Factories and 113 of Workshops and Workplaces were made. 42 defects were discovered, and action was taken to have these remedied.

HOMEWORK.—Lists of outworkers were received as follows :—

Wearing Apparel (making)

(Once a year) 5 lists relating to 12 workmen.

(Twice a year) 8 lists relating to 10 workmen.

Umbrellas (once a year) 1 list relating to 1 workman.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.—The workshops on the register at the end of the year were :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	24
Boot-making and repairing	...	...	...	...	15
Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	3
Tailors	...	...	...	...	14
Milliners	...	...	...	...	1
Cycle and Motor repairing	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	46
					—
					120
					—

Miss Suffield, Health Visitor, in addition to her other duties carried out 16 inspections in factories where women are employed, and reported 4 defects in factories.

I.—INSPECTION.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspection.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries) ...	64	1	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	111	—	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	2	—	—
Total	177	1	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.*				
Want of cleanliness	10	10	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	12	12	—	—
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.				
Insufficient	1	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	19	16	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	42	38	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Rag Gatherers.

Observations continue to be made on rag gatherers, and no further cases of exchanging toys for rags have been noticed.

Common Lodging Houses.

The number of Common Lodging Houses on the Register remains at three, the same as last year. One of these consists of two cottages and is not much used, one has been a large dwellinghouse, and the other factory premises which have been adapted. They have been inspected, and found to be kept in fair condition—taking into account the nature of the premises.

Cinemas, etc.

Visits have been paid to these premises, and their sanitary condition found to be satisfactory.

Schools.

A sanitary survey of each school is made three times a year by the School Medical Inspector, whose reports are considered by the Education Authority, any necessary action being taken.

When absence from school is suspected to be due to illness, duplicate reports are sent by the Head Teacher to the Deputy School Medical Officer and to the M.O.H. Where necessary the School Nurse visits the home to investigate.

Convalescents from infectious disease and contacts, who have been excluded from school, are reported to the Deputy School Medical Officer by the M.O.H., and are seen by one of the Medical Inspectors at the School Clinic before being allowed to return to school.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	175
(i)	By the Local Authority	52
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	0
(iii)	By other bodies and persons	123
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i)	By the Local Authority	51
(ii)	By other bodies and persons	0

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1057
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1960
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	136
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	227
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	358

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 298

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 3

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 38

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 30

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

During the year I submitted a report to the Housing Committee on the houses which appear to call for action. The report was divided into three sections. The first dealt with a number of houses owned by the Corporation, the second put forward a small area as an Improvement Area, and the third portion dealt with a list of 57 houses in groups of not more than seven in different parts of the town which might be considered unfit. Subsequently, the Housing

Committee visited a number of the houses, and decided, as a first instalment, that the area put forward should be dealt with as an Improvement Area, that an unfit house belonging to the Corporation in North Walls should be demolished, and that eight houses of a cheap type should be built on the ground which it and some old sheds occupied. I also mentioned in my report that there are at least thirty to forty cases of bad overcrowding for which new houses are required.

These overcrowded families are living in houses which cannot be condemned as unfit, and at present no subsidy is available to assist in their rehousing, although many of them will be only able to pay an average rent of five or six shillings a week.

It does seem to me that a survey of the position of the large number of families who have had a subsidised rent for a number of years might show that some of them at least could pay an economic rent. If so, this would make the provision of sympathetic rents for hard cases much easier. After all, the much smaller assistance of free milk granted to certain families is subject to periodic review, and many poor people are in fact contributing through their rates to these rents for others who may be better off than they are.

The problem of the individual unfit house has not become any easier as the result of appeals against demolition orders made to the County Courts in various parts of the country. Some of the decisions as to what is a "reasonable expense" to render a house fit have been hard to understand, and make it difficult for local authorities to deal with what are undoubtedly slum houses.

With regard to the provision of houses generally, private enterprise has made good progress since the withdrawal of the subsidy, having completed 123 houses in the year as compared with 59 and 37 in 1932 and 1931 respectively.

Further subsidies, in my opinion, would only be justified if strictly reserved for tenants in poor circumstances removed from unfit or overcrowded houses. In other words, effort should be concentrated on the hard cases, who have not been able to pay the lowest rents charged under the flat rate subsidies, and whose housing needs are after all the most urgent. This could be done without checking the flow of private enterprise building, which at its present rate must tend to lower rents generally by increasing the housing accommodation of the town.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 18 cowkeepers and 96 milk sellers registered within the Borough. In addition, the names of 41 persons who reside outside and retail milk inside the Borough are on the Register. 64 visits were paid to the cowsheds and 153 to the milkshops; in each case the occupier's attention was called to the requirements as to cleansing and limewashing. These were complied with. 50 of the milk sellers are registered only for the sale of sterilized milk in sealed bottles.

COWKEEPERS.—The decrease in the number of cowkeepers was caused by a farm remaining unoccupied for twelve months.

There has not been any notable alteration in the cowsheds during the twelve months under review, and at a number of them there is still much to be desired with respect to facilities for obtaining a clean milk supply. Another producer has installed proper apparatus for sterilizing his cans and appliances. The importance of such apparatus is emphasized to all milk producers and retailers, as the inefficient sterilizing of the vessels will nullify the care that may have been taken to produce a clean milk. The need for the greatest attention to details of production and handling of milk to ensure its cleanliness is continually being reiterated on the occasion of the inspectors' visits to the various premises.

DESIGNATED MILKS.—Four supplies of Grade A. Milk and one of Grade A. Tuberculin-tested Milk are on sale in the town by motor delivery. There are also four retail shops where this milk is sold.

The Corporation give their support and encouragement to this purer milk supply by restricting their contracts for the Isolation Hospital and Child Welfare Centre to Grade A. Milk.

Grade A. Tuberculin-tested Milk is also granted to a few special cases by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli is carried out by the County Council. The following results were obtained from milk on sale in the Borough :—

	No. of Samples	Clean	Not Clean	Tuber- culous
Grade A and Grade A (T.T.)	66	60	5*	1*
Ordinary Milks ...	80	53	27	0

* Grade A.

Meat.

The total amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 31 tons 0 cwts., from 735 carcasses, classified as follows :—Oxen, 247 ; sheep, 135 ; pigs, 321 ; calves, 32. In 403 cases the reason for condemnation was tuberculous disease in various forms.

As in previous years by far the greater proportion of the meat was examined at one large slaughterhouse to which doubtful carcasses are sent from the surrounding district for disposal. There has been a considerable increase in the number of carcasses dealt with, particularly so with regard to pigs, which are very liable to local tubercular infection of the neck glands.

Classification of Slaughterhouses.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1933.	In Dec., 1933.
Registered	11	2	2
Licensed	11	11	11
	—	—	—
	22	13	13
	—	—	—

The licence of one slaughterhouse was not renewed at the end of the year, and it is now disused.

Proceedings were taken against a local butcher during the year for not notifying the time and place of slaughter of certain animals, for not notifying the presence of disease, and removing the carcasses before they had been examined. He was fined £5 and costs on each charge.

Other Foods.

Regular observations have been made of the foodstuffs exposed for sale in the Market Hall, and they were found to be in a sound condition.

14 stones of herrings and 6lbs. of corned beef were condemned as unfit for human food after inspection at the request of the owners.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

This Act is administered by the County Council, but by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer I am able to include the results of the examination of the samples taken in the Borough during 1933.

Article	Number Submitted	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	48	46	2
Milk, Grade A	2	2	...
Milk, Grade A. (T.T.)	1	1	...
Milk, Sterilized	1	1	...
Chocolate	1	1	...
Ice Cream	1	1	...
Marmalade	1	1	...
Rice	1	1	...
Total	56	54	2

Milk : 1 sample 34.7% deficient in fat. Retailer prosecuted and fined 10s. od. with 10s. 6d. costs.

1 sample 56.6% deficient in fat, but as it was an informal sample no legal action could be taken. An official sample was afterwards obtained, which, on examination, proved genuine.

Ice Cream Shops.

There are 21 premises on which ice cream is made in the Borough. 22 inspections have been made. The majority of these places are small shops, and the ice cream is made during the summer months. The utensils and premises were kept in a clean condition.

Nothing further has been done with regard to the compulsory registration of makers of ice cream.

Infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the 52 weeks from 1st January to 30th December, 1933.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Under 1 year										65 & over	Removed to Isolation Hospital.
		1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65		
Scarlet fever .....Cases .....Deaths.....	40 —	— —	1 —	3 —	4 —	23 —	7 —	— —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	36 —
Diphtheria .....Cases .....Deaths ...	7 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	5 —	1 —	— —	— —	7 —
Puerperal fever .....Cases .....Deaths ...	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Puerperal pyrexia .....Cases .....Deaths ...	7 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	7 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Pneumonia .....Cases .....Deaths ...	59 12	3 1	3 —	4 1	1 —	6 —	5 1	1 —	10 1	14 4	5 1	4 2	— —
Erysipelas .....Cases .....Deaths ...	5 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —	— —	2 1	1 —	— —
Cerebro-spinal fever... Cases .....Deaths.....	1 —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Chickenpox .....Cases .....Deaths ...	133 —	2 —	3 —	5 —	12 —	94 —	9 —	1 —	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The town has remained free from outbreaks of infectious disease, except that Whooping Cough, which appeared at the end of 1932, continued to be prevalent during the early months of 1933.

Smallpox.

The epidemic of mild Smallpox continues to decline, there being only 631 cases in England and Wales as compared with 2,070 last year. No case occurred in Stafford.

VACCINATION STATISTICS.—The following figures for 1932 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union Area :—

Births registered	...	...	...	...	571
Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	147	
Exemptions	...	...	...	377	
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	26	
Removed	...	...	...	15	
Outstanding cases	...	...	...	6	
					<hr/> 571 <hr/>

Scarlet Fever.

There were forty cases, all of the prevailing mild type, and all recovered.

Scarlet fever streptococcus antitoxin was used in cases coming under treatment in the early stages, particularly the younger children, and was followed by a rapid return to normal temperature with disappearance of rash, sore throat, etc. Complications were few and not of a serious nature.

It has not been thought wise to discharge any patients from hospital under four weeks from the onset, but this has been the usual period for uncomplicated cases. Patients discharged earlier than this are, I consider, more likely to develop swollen glands or some other condition bad for themselves and liable to infect others. As far as possible, all cases, however mild, are removed to hospital, as the risk of infection and of complications such as nephritis is present in all.

Two houses had two cases each, and the remainder were single cases.

The infected houses had 0.96 rooms per person, as compared with 1.24, the Census figure for the town as a whole.

Case rate per 1,000 living, for Stafford, 1.36 ; for England and Wales, 3.21.

Diphtheria.

Only seven cases occurred, all of whom recovered.

The infected houses had only 0.87 rooms per person.

Case rate per 1,000 living, for Stafford, 0.24 ; for England and Wales, 1.18.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case of Puerperal fever and seven of Puerperal pyrexia occurred, all recovered.

With regard to facilities for treatment, Dr. F. M. Blumer has been appointed as consultant under the Puerperal fever and Puerperal pyrexia Regulations, bacteriological examinations are provided by the County Council, hospital treatment is available at the General Infirmary, and trained nursing is provided by the District Nursing Association.

Rates for Stafford, 0.03 for Puerperal fever, and 0.24 for Puerperal pyrexia ; for England and Wales, 0.05 for Puerperal fever and 0.14 for Puerperal pyrexia.

These rates are better expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to population. When calculated on this basis the rates are :—Stafford, Puerperal fever, 2.6, Puerperal pyrexia, 18.3, and England and Wales, Puerperal fever, 3.5, and Puerperal pyrexia, 9.6, per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still-births) registered during the year.

Pneumonia.

Fifty-nine cases were notified, of whom twelve died. The majority occurred in the early months of the year, and were definitely associated with the prevalence of Influenza during that period. Twelve other deaths were due to Pneumonia but only those due to Primary Pneumonia or Influenzal Pneumonia are notifiable.

Steps are taken to obtain assistance, such as nursing or extra nourishment, when it is required. The relief for such necessitous cases has been obtained from the Guild of Social Welfare or from the Public Assistance Committee.

Erysipelas.

Five cases were notified, one of whom died.

Case rate per 1,000, for Stafford, 0.17 ; for England and Wales, 0.45.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

There was one case in a child of three years who recovered.

Chickenpox.

One hundred and thirty-three cases were notified.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Only a few cases of Measles came under notice during the year. The Health Visitors made 4 primary visits and 4 revisits.

Whooping cough, which broke out at the end of 1932, continued during the early months of 1933, and caused one death. 175 primary visits and 214 revisits were made by the Health Visitors.

Every effort is made to bring home to parents the dangerous character of Measles and Whooping cough. In both the school intimations have proved valuable in directing attention to the homes of infants which have been invaded. The Health Visitors are then able to urge that medical attention be obtained at least for these youngest ones in whom the attacks are apt to be most serious. This, of course, can only be done when the school intimation is received soon after the absence of the first case from school.

Bacteriological Work.

The County Laboratory, provided by the Stafford County Council, is situated in Martin Street. It undertakes bacteriological examinations in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Enteric fever, Cerebro-spinal fever, and Malaria ; and also the Wassermann test for Syphilis. This service is available, without charge, to medical practitioners. All Diphtheria cases at the Isolation Hospital are thus tested for freedom from infection before discharge. It is also desirable that those who have been in close contact with a case of Diphtheria should be tested, in case they are harbouring infection, and arrangements are made to get this done as far as possible. Where necessary virulence tests are carried out to enable persistent carriers of non-virulent bacilli to be released from unnecessary restrictions.

During the year bacteriological reports were received by the Medical Officer of Health on the following :—

Swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli	...	298
Virulence test (Diphtheria)	... ..	3
Blood examined for Widal reaction	...	12
Faeces	... ..	4
Blood culture	... ..	3
Blood film	... ..	1
Pus	... ..	5
Swabs for Cerebro-spinal fever	... ..	2
Tuberculosis (biological test)	... ..	9
Sputum examined for Tubercle bacilli	...	124

These numbers tend to increase year by year, and the great value of this bacteriological service is more and more appreciated by the private doctor as well as by the health department.

Issues of Diphtheria Antitoxin, etc.

Supplies of Diphtheria antitoxin are available at the public expense for necessitous cases. These are used by medical practitioners for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria or possible Diphtheria, it being of the utmost importance that such treatment should be commenced without waiting for bacteriological confirmation, and so losing valuable time. Few cases of this disease, if any, will fail to do well if given a sufficient dose of antitoxin on the first day of the illness.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is offered through the Welfare Centre for children under school age, and during the year 82 children were immunised by the Medical Officer of Health. Diphtheria Toxoid Antitoxin is also provided for the use of medical practitioners, but there has been little or no demand for it up to the present.

The Schick and Dick tests have not been used.

The number of children under five who have been immunised against Diphtheria shows a gratifying increase over previous years, and the response in 1934 promises to be still better. This is largely due to the efforts of Miss Suffield and Miss Briggs, who have been untiring in their efforts to convince parents of the importance of getting their children protected without waiting for the scare of an epidemic. Immunisation in the schools was commenced by the School Medical Department early in 1934, and has met with a very good response.

Disinfection.

A Washington Lyon steam disinfecter is used for bedding, clothing, etc., which have been exposed to infection.

Houses in which there have been cases of Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, etc., are fumigated with formalin vapour or sprayed with formalin solution, and a liquid disinfectant is supplied to the occupier for use in the "spring cleaning" which is advised as a sequel to the fumigation. The disinfectant is supplied in special poison bottles only. No great expense is caused by this service, and it has not been thought wise or necessary to practise greater economy than that which is already observed.

Isolation Hospital.

Sixty-two cases were admitted, classified as follows:—

Disease.	Stafford Borough.	Stafford Rural District.	Lichfield Rural District.	Total.
Scarlet Fever.....	36	12	1	49
Diphtheria	7	3	—	10
Measles	—	1	—	1
Tonsilitis	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria carrier.....	1	—	—	1
Total	45	16	1	62

All the patients made complete recoveries.

It is with great regret that I have to record the resignation of the Matron, Miss Roberts, who left us early in 1934 to take up a similar post in a larger hospital.

Miss Roberts was an ideal Matron, and I wish her every happiness in her new work.

The great majority of Scarlet fever and Diphtheria cases are treated at the hospital, as there are few houses in the town where efficient isolation would be possible. As a rule, even the provision of a separate bedroom would involve overcrowding in other parts of the house. In certain employments objection would be taken to a worker, living in the same house as the patient, continuing at work. Finally, in most families there is only one adult who can be at home to look after the patient and she is usually the mother with other children to attend to.

The average stay of uncomplicated cases of Scarlet fever is about four weeks, and it has not been considered advisable to reduce this any further.

Having only 28 beds (including 6 on the balconies) to serve the Borough and Rural District, a combined population of over 39,000, it is not possible to attempt to admit cases of other diseases, such as Measles and Whooping cough, although a few such would have a much better chance of recovery in hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases were notified as shown in the following table:—

	CASES		Vision un-impaired	Vision impaired	Total blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At home	In hospital				
2	2	—	2	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Analysis of the new cases and deaths during the calendar year, 1933 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	5	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
20—25	1	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
25—35	5	6	1	—	4	—	—	—
35—45	3	4	1	—	2	1	—	—
45—55	2	2	—	—	4	—	—	—
55—65	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	19	23	4	1	16	3	1	1

The death-rate from all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.71 as compared with 1.17 last year.

Year.	Number of deaths.		Rate per 1,000.			New Cases.
	Res.	Non-Res.	Res.	Non-Res.	Total.	
1923	26	2	0.88	0.07	0.95	57
1924	29	6	1.01	0.21	1.22	56
1925	27	5	0.93	0.17	1.10	76
1926	26	5	0.89	0.17	1.06	60
1927	20	4	0.69	0.14	0.83	53
1928	24	6	0.83	0.20	1.03	73
1929	21	5	0.73	0.17	0.90	61
1930	19	8	0.65	0.27	0.92	64
1931	18	3	0.61	0.10	0.71	49
1932	26	9	0.87	0.30	1.17	44
1933	19	2	0.64	0.07	0.71	47
Average for England and Wales (1933)			0.690	0.134	0.824	

The " Balance Sheet " for the Register may be given as follows :—

Number on Register at		Deaths in 1933	...	24*
31st December, 1932	305	Removals	...	12
Notifications in 1933	...	" Cured "	...	14
Unnotified deaths	...	Notification withdrawn		1
Transfers	...	Number on Register at		
Returned to district	...	31st December, 1933	307	
	<u>358</u>			<u>358</u>

*Includes three deaths attributed to other causes.

NOTIFICATION.—There were three deaths of patients not previously on the Register. One was diagnosed post mortem ; one, in an institution, was that of a person of no fixed abode, and the other had been notified in an outside area and not re-notified since removing to Stafford.

Year.	Number of Un-notified Deaths.	Average interval between notification and Death.
1923	4	13.3 months
1924	8	18.4 "
1925	7	18.1 "
1926	2	14.0 "
1927	5	27.2 "
1928	3	16.5 "
1929	5	17.2 "
1930	7	30.1 "
1931	1	16.8 "
1932	9	30.0 "
1933	3	44.0 "

Thirty-two cases from the Borough of Stafford were admitted as in-patients to the following institutions during 1933 :—

Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	...	12
Edge View Tuberculosis Hospital	...	...	...	1
Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	...	9
Yarnfield Tuberculosis Hospital	...	...	...	5
Himley Children's Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Hartshill Orthopædic Hospital	...	...	...	1
Staffordshire General Infirmary	...	...	...	2

AFTER-CARE.—The Stafford Guild of Social Welfare undertakes this work in the area. An annual grant up to £2 per case relieved is made by the Joint Committee towards the expenses of the After-Care Committee, but it cannot be too widely known that the primary aim of the work is not to relieve distress amongst the tuberculous but rather to help them to become self-supporting. All cases are submitted to the Committee by the Tuberculosis Officer and the following is a brief summary of the main objects of the work :—

1. To allay any fears that may exist as to the danger of infection in early cases, subject to the patient taking reasonable precautions.
2. Finding suitable employment and providing clothing and food in necessitous cases.
3. The provision of beds and bedding to enable patients to sleep alone.
4. When necessary to assist the families of patients who are under treatment in residential institutions.
5. To take a general interest in the welfare of cases submitted to their care, and if necessary to visit them at their own homes. These visits are not intended to take the place of the visits paid by the Health Visitors appointed by the Council.

HEALTH VISITING.—The Health Visitors have paid 47 primary visits to tuberculous persons on notification and 809 subsequent visits. Many are still in great need of better housing, and even infectious cases cannot always arrange to sleep alone.

The sleeping accommodation of 287 of the cases on the register was as follows :—

Separate bedroom.	Separate bed (share room).	Share bed.
77 (26.8%)	63 (21.9%)	144 (50.2%)

while 3, or 1.0%, occupied shelters in the open air.

The majority of cases who share a bed are married persons, and they are often unwilling to see the need for a change, though there are still some whose difficulty is the provision of the necessary beds. Those sharing a room are usually in need of better housing accommodation. During the year five such families removed into Corporation houses.

Shelters have been provided by the Joint Committee for use by patients residing in the area, but many of the worst cases are not well enough to sleep outside, and they are not always willing to be removed to Hospital, even when accommodation is available. There is no doubt that patients do much better in shelters than when they sleep in ill-ventilated rooms, but it requires a considerable amount of determination to persevere with the treatment, especially during the winter months.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was necessary under either of these provisions, the former of which relates to tuberculous employees in the milk trade and the latter to compulsory removal of infectious cases to hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births Acts.

385 births were notified (345 by midwives, 39 by doctors, and 1 by parent). Seventeen other births were registered, making 402 births taking place in the borough during the year. Of this total 96% were notified in accordance with the above Acts.

Health Visiting.

The following is a summary of visits in regard to Infant Welfare :—

BIRTHS.

Primary visits	...	...	...	369
Re-visits	...	...	...	1287

ANTE-NATAL VISITS.

Primary	...	...	...	103
Re-visits	...	...	...	125
Visits to older children (1—5)	...	...	...	3480
Inquiries into infant deaths	...	...	...	18
Inquiries into stillbirths	...	...	...	19
Unclassified visits	...	...	...	74

It will be seen that the great majority of the births are visited, and that the older children (1—5) receive their share of attention too.

Children Act, 1908, and Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

As from the 1st April, 1930, the functions under Part I. of the Children Act, 1908, formerly discharged by the Poor Law Authority, were transferred to the Town Council, and the M.O.H. was appointed to act as Registration Officer with the two Health Visitors as Infant Protection Visitors. This caused little change as the visiting has been done by the Health Visitors in the past.

The coming into force of the Children and Young Persons Act, of 1932, was advertised in the local press, and leaflets giving advice to intending foster-parents and explaining the provisions of the new Act were provided.

This Act, among other important provisions, raises the age for the supervision of children received for reward from seven to nine years, makes it compulsory to give notification **before** receiving a child, forbids anonymous advertisements for children, and tightens up the regulations as to overcrowding, unsuitability of premises, foster-parents, or environment.

On Register, 1st January,	Removals	...	...	2
1933... .. 12	Adopted	...	...	2
New cases 7	Over nine years	...	...	3
	On Register, 31st Dec-			
	ember, 1933	...	...	12
	—			—
	19			19
	—			—

The number of visits during the year was 72.

Infant Welfare Centre.

The Centre is held at the Wesley Schools, Queen Street, and is open from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 2 to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. It has been well attended, and the numbers show a considerable increase over last year in spite of the falling birth rate.

For normal children the attendances recommended to mothers are :—

Weekly during the first year ; monthly during the second year ; and at least once a quarter afterwards, until the child begins to attend school.

Ante-natal consultations are held on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. and the attendances have been quite encouraging in view of the fact that no inducements, such as free meals, are provided and that there is no maternity home in connection with the centre. An increasing number of expectant mothers consult their own doctors during pregnancy, which is, of course, the ideal form of ante-natal care.

The death of 16 infants within one month of birth, to which number must be added 23 stillbirths shows that there is scope for saving infant life in this work as well as for the care of the mother during pregnancy.

Sterilized maternity outfits are on sale at cost price (3/- and 6/-), and may be paid for by instalments. The Maternity Committee of the Guild of Social Welfare have kindly assisted in providing these for necessitous cases.

Number of consultation days	97
New cases registered (under 1 year)	215
New cases registered (1 to 5 years)	24
Total attendances (by children under 1 year)	4499
Total attendances (by children, 1 to 5 years)	3944
Average attendance per week (two sessions)	176
Ante-natal consultations :—	
New cases registered	37
Total attendances	46

Thanks are due to the members of the Maternity Committee of the Guild of Social Welfare for regular assistance on Centre days, an indispensable help in the running of the Centre, also for the loan of Maternity Bags to necessitous cases ; to the Mayor's Fund for clothing for the mothers and children, and to the Guild's Boot Fund for boots for children under school age.

Baby Day.

Miss Suffield contributes the following account :—

The Baby Week Celebrations were held during the last week in June.

As in former years a circular letter was sent to the clergy and ministers of religion inviting their co-operation by preaching special sermons on Sunday, June 25th.

The chemists and drapers gave special displays of mothers' and children's requirements. These displays add to the interest of Baby Week, being both educational and spectacular.

The Welfare Centre was open to the public on Monday, June 26th. Many members of the public availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the Centre at work, and mothers attending brought friends.

The Pram Parade prizes were on view, and were greatly admired.

We were again indebted to Messrs. Brookfield's Successors for the loan of a perambulator, and to Mrs. Drury for her assistance in decorating it. The perambulator was on view at the Welfare Centre from three to four weeks, and proved invaluable to mothers making their first attempt at this form of decoration.

A Garden Party organised by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee took place at the Victoria Pleasure Grounds on Wednesday, June 28th.

It was preceded by a Decorated Pram Parade, which, favoured by fine weather, presented a pretty and animated appearance as it passed through the principal streets.

The decorated perambulators were judged in the Market Hall, and it was reassuring to find that the exhibits were as numerous and charming as ever. The Novelty Section was very popular, and many quaint and transformed perambulators held proud and happy occupants.

The Parade was marshalled by Alderman Pitt and Councillors Owen and Pilliner and headed by the Borough Military Band. The Mayor, in her robes and chain of office, was followed by members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, the Judges, and Competitors.

The route was by way of Crabbery Street, Greengate Street, and Newport Road, and many were the expressions of approval from the spectators that the economy axe which last year had cut out that part of the programme had been lifted. Arriving at the Victoria Pleasure Grounds the guests were welcomed by the Mayor (Councillor Mrs. South, J.P.) in her dual capacity of Mayor and Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and tea was very quickly served by Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Dix, J.P., and a band of willing helpers.

The Mothercraft Certificates and the Pram Parade prizes were presented by the Mayor, who also presented the special prizes given for attendance at the Welfare Centre.

Two prizes were given by the Mayor and Mrs. Taylor, Jerningham Street, for the best attendance of children during their first and second years. These prizes took the form of knitted silk and wool outfits, and were won by a boy and girl.

Three prizes were given by Mrs. Aspin, Queensville House, Councillor Miss Westhead, and Messrs. W. E. Brown & Sons, Bailey Street, for the best attendance at the Welfare Centre from birth to school age. The prizes were a shoulder of mutton (cover presented by Councillor Mrs. Turney) and two travelling rugs.

Mrs. C. W. Miller presented the Blumer Shield and medals. The judging for this competition took place on June 13th, Dr. McIntosh kindly acted as adjudicator.

The band played selections of music until 5-30 p.m.

Free Supply of Milk to Mothers and Infants.

This has been continued throughout the year, and, owing to the persistence of unemployment, has been of great value in enabling these mothers to feed their children satisfactorily. Number of applications received, 170. Of these, 163 were granted and seven refused. The numbers on the list were 117 on January 1st and 115 on December 31st.

Every effort is made to encourage breast feeding. Even in those cases where it has already been given up, a fresh start is often made with success. Of 335 children who completed the age of nine months during 1933 :—

86% were breast fed at the first visit,
64% were breast fed at the end of three months, and
52% were breast fed for over six months, while
11% were artificially fed at first visit.

Orthopædic Treatment.

The Medical Officer is authorised to send any cases attending the Centre, who require orthopædic treatment, to the Clinic in Stafford, and during the year 14 benefitted by this. The cases comprised congenital deformities (8), birth injuries (2), and rickets (4).

Maternity Beds.

The size of the town would not appear to justify the provision of a Municipal Maternity Home, but if an annexe to

the Infirmary could be provided there is no doubt that it would fill a great want, both in cases of abnormal labour and in those cases where the mother's home conditions are unsatisfactory. The difficulty of financing any such scheme appears to be considerable.

The solution may be found under the reorganisation of the Poor Law Institutions, which is at present being considered by the County Authorities.

Maternal Mortality.

The investigation of maternal deaths is carried out by the M.O.H. under a scheme, organised by the County M.O.H., which secures the co-operation of the Inspectors of Midwives, who also inquire into cases of Puerperal fever and Puerperal pyrexia.

In addition to his appointment as consultant under the Puerperal fever and Puerperal pyrexia Regulations, Dr. F. M. Blumer has been appointed to act in a similar capacity in difficulties or complications arising during pregnancy, or at or after confinement.

Co-ordination with the School Medical Service.

Abnormal children are, as far as possible, reported to the School Medical Department on reaching school age.

Information with regard to houses infected with Measles and Whooping cough is largely derived from reports received from the school teachers by arrangement with the School Medical Department, and any homes where there are children under five are visited by one of the Health Visitors.

Health Propaganda.

A very successful day of film displays and addresses was organised in November by the County Insurance Committee as part of a general campaign in the County. About 500 school children attended the morning sessions and 500 women in the afternoon, while in the evening there were 400 at a mixed meeting, followed by a session for men only attended by 300. The films and addresses dealing with ante-natal care and with the prevention of Diphtheria were particularly valuable.

The local issue of "Better Health" was suddenly stopped in June. After some inquiry, it was ascertained that the publishers were not satisfied with the revenue from the local advertisements. The Public Health Committee offered to meet the firm's representative to see what could be done to remedy this, but the offer was not accepted.





